PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0052/035002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hidetoshi SAITOH et al. Art Unit: Application No.: filed concurrently Examiner:

Filed : July 8, 2003

Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THIN METAL OXIDE FILM

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of good faith and candor as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicants request that the references cited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

The English language abstracts for the German patent references are also enclosed.

This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 8, 2003

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| INFORM/ | 4OIT | N DIS | CLOSURE | Application Number | Filed concurrently |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | | Filing Date | July 8, 2003 |
| | | | | Applicants | Hidetoshi SAITOH et al. |
| (use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Group Art Unit | |
| | | | | Examiner Name | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 0052/035002 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS DOCUMENT **EXAMINER** Cite Pages, Columns, Lines, INITIAL* No. NUMBER Kind Code² NAME DATE Where Relevant Passages or Relevant (if known) MM-YYYY Figures Appear 3,927,155 JAEGER et al. 12/1975 4,975,415 **GUSMAN** et al. 12/1990 5,006,504 O'BRYAN, Jr. et al. 04/1991 5,266,243 KNELLER et al. 11/1993 5,294,599 SHIBATA et al. 03/1994 5,304,536 HOROWITZ 04/1994 5,407,618 **STEPHENSON** 04/1995 HAYASHI et al. 5,413,988 05/1995 5,534,468 **STEPHENSON** 07/1996 5,614,472 RIDDLE et al. 03/1997 5,660,774 STANGLE et al. 08/1997 5,728,362 GREUTER et al. 03/1998 5,814,585 RIDDLE et al. 09/1998 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Foreign Patent Document **EXAMINER** Cite Kind Code DATE Pages, Columns, Lines, INITIAL* Office³ Number⁴ (if known) NAME MM-YYYY Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear DE 41 27 852 MUEHL et al. Α 02/1993 Abstract EP 0 842 911 Α MANZ et al. 05/1998 **Abstract**

EXAMINE

DATE CONSIDERED

^{*}Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WiPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WiPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.